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BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector

1945

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. D. M. Wesson, J.P.

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor F. A. Wadsworth, J.P.)
Aldermen T. Berry, and G. W. Price, J.P. ; Councillors L. B. Gardner, T. King, Mrs. E. Price and N. L. Small.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. M. Bayley, J.P.

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor F. A. Wadsworth, J.P.)
Aldermen T. Berry, C. Collins, D. C. Jackson, J.P., G. W. Price, J.P. ; Councillors A. Bissell, L. B. Gardner, T. Hollingsworth, J.P., T. King, J. F. Postins, Mrs. E. Price, N. L. Small, W. F. Taylor, Mrs. D. M. Wesson, J.P., L. Whitehouse, J.P. ; *Co-opted Members* : The Mayoress (Mrs. F. A. Wadsworth), Mesdames Berry, Collins, Greenhough, J.P., Jackson, Walton, Whitehouse.

WAR-TIME DAY NURSERIES SUB-COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Alderman D. C. Jackson, J.P.

Councillors Mrs. M. Bayley, J.P., J. F. Postins, Mrs. D. M. Wesson, J.P. ; *Co-opted Members* : Mesdames Greenhough, J.P., Walton and Whitehouse.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Public Health Services of the Borough in respect of the year 1945 prepared in accordance with lines indicated in Circular 28/46 of the Ministry of Health dated 11th February, 1946.

The report deals briefly—as has been customary in the war-time years—with most matters within the responsibility of the Medical Officer of Health regarding public health and preventative medicine. With the termination of European hostilities on the 8th May and of the Asiatic campaign on the 15th August, there has been a removal of the major afflictions which war brought to our people and a certain lessening of those special responsibilities which were so detrimental to the full pursuit of Public Health activities.

Looking back one has cause for much thankfulness that this year has, as in the five preceeding, produced no epidemic or marked deviation from normal health.

1945 has been noteworthy for the lowest Infantile Mortality Rate ever recorded, for the second time in our history being below that for England and Wales as a whole.

In January your Ante-natal services were extended by the opening of a clinic at the Mesty Croft Infant Welfare Centre.

At the end of June Dr. Elizabeth L. J. Ryan resigned her position as Assistant Medical Officer of Health on acceptance of a post in the School Medical Service of Southern Rhodesia. Owing to war conditions the post has remained vacant, but measures have been taken by the Public Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees to maintain an adequate service, and we are indebted to Drs. Terry and St. Johnston for their help at the Ante-natal Clinics ; to Dr. Lavelle for conducting the Infant Welfare Centres at Mesty Croft ; and to Dr. G. E. V. Morris for deputising in Public Health matters.

On the 2nd July the Civil Defence Organisation was disbanded and the years of ungrudging service by many hundreds of men and women of the Borough will always be remembered with pride.

On the 31st March the Borough ceased to function as a Local Education Authority. Your Medical Officers are still however employed in the School Health Service of the town, thus preserving continuity of care in this important sphere of preventative medicine by those who have known the children from their very earliest years.

Under the various headings of the report you will I trust find much of interest and a stimulus to still further provision of those things necessary for a better environment and a healthier way of living.

In conclusion I would desire to express my thanks to the Chairmen and members of the various Committees for their constant help and encouragement ; to the staff of the Department I am indebted for loyal co-operation, they have worked as a team animated by the ideal of service in a great cause ; and to colleagues of other departments of the Corporation for willing assistance.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. Lynaston.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Wednesbury, Staffs.

9th July, 1946.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

A. H. Kynaston, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer :

Miss E. L. J. Ryan, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., L.M. (Rotunda).
(Resigned 30/6/45).

Consultant Obstetrician :

J. S. M. Connell, F.R.C.S.

Consultant Paediatrician :

Professor Leonard G. Parsons, M.D., F.R.C.P.

Veterinary Surgeon :

J. McClemont, M.R.C.V.S.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

F. J. Turner, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

A. H. Matthews, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (R.A.M.C., 11/3/1940).
G. O. Wright, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (appointed 1/3/1944).

Health Visitors and School Nurses :

Mrs. A. E. Boffey, C.M.B.

Miss A. Davies, C.M.B.

Miss G. Reynolds, C.M.B., S.R.N., H.V.Cert. R.S.I.

Miss J. Roberts, C.M.B., S.R.N., H.V.Cert. R.S.I.

One Vacancy.

Hygiene Assistant : Mrs. R. Highfield.

Chief Clerk :

Mr. J. A. Jackson.

Clerks :

Miss M. Troman (W.A.A.F., 6/1/1943), Miss A. James, Miss M. B. Elsdon, Mr. J. W. Barber (R.A.M.C., 17/10/1940), Mr. S. Matthewson (R.N. 26/11/1942), Mr. G. Amos, and Mr. R. J. Deeley.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	2,025
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, Mid 1945	32,200
Population (Census, 1931)	31,531
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to the Rate Books—including 3,088 Council Houses	8,409
Rateable Value	£143,938
Sum represented by a penny rate	£550

Vital Statistics :—

	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.</i>
Live Births	672 ...	327 ...	345 ...	
Legitimate	652 ...	319 ...	333 ...	... 20.8
Illegitimate	20 ...	8 ...	12	

	<i>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</i>
Still Births	20 ... 13 ... 7 28.8

	<i>Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.</i>
Deaths ...	371 ... 190 ... 181 11.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</i>
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis ...	1 ...	... 1.4
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	— —
	—	—
Total ...	1 ...	... 1.4
	—	—

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	... ..	37.1
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		36.7
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		50.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... ..	61
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	... ..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ..	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	... ..	4

		<i>Mid</i>													
		<i>Year</i>				<i>Live Births</i>				<i>Deaths.</i>					
<i>Year.</i>		<i>Popula-</i>						<i>Under</i>				<i>All</i>			
		<i>tion.</i>		<i>No.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>			<i>1 year.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>			<i>Ages.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>		
1938	...	33,370	...	601	...	18.0	...	43	...	71.5	...	406	...	12.1	
1939	...	33,650	...	608	...	18.1	...	35	...	58.0	...	385	...	11.5	
1940	...	32,080	...	571	...	17.8	...	35	...	61.0	...	390	...	12.2	
1941	...	32,400	...	594	...	18.3	...	38	...	64.0	...	384	...	11.9	
1942	...	32,230	...	633	...	19.6	...	31	...	49.0	...	327	...	10.1	
1943	...	32,090	...	643	...	20.0	...	25	...	38.8	...	351	...	10.9	
1944	...	32,460	...	662	...	20.3	...	31	...	46.8	...	367	...	11.3	
1945	...	32,200	...	672	...	20.8	...	25	...	37.1	...	371	...	11.5	

The Provisional Rates for England and Wales for 1945 per 1,000 Mid-1939 Population are :—

Live Births : 16.1. Deaths : 11.4. Deaths under one year of age per 1,000 Live Births : 46.0.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS AND WARD DISTRIBUTION, Year 1945.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 and over	Total	Males	Fe- males	WARDS.			
															King's Hill.	Market	Town Hall.	Wood Green.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—	—	—	1	3	2	3	4	3	3	2	21	12	9	4	—	6	11
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	5	3	2	—	2	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Acute Poliomyelitis and	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oesophagus (males only)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	3	3	4	1	—	1	1
Cancer of Uterus (females only)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	11	8	24	13	2	6	16
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	40	16	37	27	5	2	30
Cancer of Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	15	18	3	22	18	5	1	2	21
Cancer of all other sites	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	4	2	4	3	4	4	4	1	5	2	2
Diabetes	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	22	18	5	1	9	2
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	4	6	29	40	16	24	13	2	6	16
Heart Disease	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	13	48	82	45	37	27	12	13	30
Other Circulatory Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	6	10	4	6	4	2	2	2
Bronchitis	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	15	23	10	13	7	3	2	11
Pneumonia	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	4	7	19	12	18	5	3	2	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	3	7	1	—	3	2
Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	2	1	—	—	1	—
Diarrhoea (under two years)	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	1	—	—	1	2
Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	2
Other Digestive Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	6	2	4	2	3	—	1	—
Nephritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	3
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Congenital Malformations, etc.	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	8	2	3	—	1	2
Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	8	4	4	—	—	1	4
Road Traffic Accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	—	—	1	1
Other Violent Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Other Causes	1	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	3	53	27	26	11	14	4	18
TOTALS	25	4	3	4	6	3	6	27	31	65	197	371	190	181	95	53	69	154

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR IN AGE GROUPS AND WARD DISTRIBUTION, Year 1945.

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	WARDS.			
										Totals	King's Hill.	Market	Town Hall
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other forms of Tuberculosis...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heart Disease	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	1
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	2
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	2
Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	4	2	—	2
Premature Birth	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	2
Congenital Malformations, etc. ...	4	—	3	—	7	1	—	—	—	8	3	—	4
Other Violent Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1
All Other Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	6	1	4	—	11	6	5	2	1	25	6	2	15

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Tuberculosis.

The Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Board have a Sub-Dispensary at Russell Street, Wednesbury. Sessions are held on Mondays from 2-30 p.m. to 4-30 p.m. for Men, on Wednesdays from 10-30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. for Women and Children. Institutional Treatment is available at Sanatoria and Hospitals of the Joint Board.

Infectious Diseases.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided by the West Midlands Joint Isolation Hospital Board.

Small Pox.

Provision for treatment of cases of small-pox is arranged by the South Staffordshire Joint Small-Pox Hospital Board.

Venereal Diseases.

The Staffordshire County Council Scheme makes provision for treatment at the Guest Hospital, Dudley and the Manor Hospital, Walsall.

Maternity.

The Hallam Hospital of the County Borough of West Bromwich receives cases in which home conditions are unsatisfactory or labour is likely to be complicated.

General Hospitals.

The General Hospitals—Voluntary and Local Authority—of the County Boroughs of West Bromwich and Walsall deal with the major number of patients requiring in-patient medical or surgical treatment—the voluntary hospitals of Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Dudley receive a smaller number.

The facilities afforded by the various Special Hospitals of the West Midlands Area are also fully used.

Ambulance Service.

Infectious Disease patients are removed by the Joint Boards. The Local Authority Service for accidents, treatment and acute illness cases is operated from the Depot at Myvod House, Wood Green Road.

Bacteriological and Chemical Service.

The County Bacteriologist and Pathologist, Dr. J. L. Edwards and Mr. E. V. Jones, County Analyst, deal with specimens from this area at the Laboratories at Stafford.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Infant Welfare Centres.

Albert Street	...	Mondays and Thursdays	...	2-30 p.m.
King's Hill	...	Tuesdays and Fridays	...	2-30 p.m.
Mesty Croft	...	Mondays and Thursdays	...	2-30 p.m.

Attendances, 1945 :—

	<i>New Cases.</i>						<i>Total Attendances.</i>				
	<i>Ses-</i>		<i>Under</i>		<i>1-5</i>		<i>Under</i>		<i>1-5</i>		<i>All</i>
	<i>sions.</i>		<i>1 year.</i>		<i>years.</i>		<i>1 year.</i>		<i>years.</i>		<i>ages.</i>
Albert Street ...	100	...	165	...	10	...	3,246	...	1,698	...	4,944
King's Hill ...	100	...	133	...	22	...	2,678	...	1,207	...	3,885
Mesty Croft ...	100	...	249	...	15	...	4,662	...	1,975		6,637
<hr/>											
Total Attendances (all Centres)					...		...		...		15,466

Percentage attendance notified live births: 81.4

Home Visits.

	<i>To Children</i>		<i>To Children</i>		<i>Total</i>	
<i>Ante-Natal.</i>	<i>Under 1 year.</i>		<i>1-5 years.</i>		<i>Visits.</i>	
253	...	2,698	...	2,629	...	5,580

Ante-Natal Clinics.

			<i>Sessions.</i>		<i>New Cases.</i>		<i>Total. Attendances.</i>
Albert Street	...	...	24	...	102	...	393
King's Hill	...	...	28	...	113	...	429
Mesty Croft	...	...	24	...	100	...	323
			—		—		—
Total	...	...	76	...	315	...	1,145
			—		—		—

Number of women attending Borough Ante-Natal Clinics during year : 393.

Percentage of Women confined attending Borough Clinics : 56.7.

At the Hallam Hospital of the County Borough of West Bromwich, 132 cases were admitted for confinement or special treatment. When pre-arrangement is made for confinement to take place at Hallam Hospital, ante-natal supervision is carried out at the Hospital.

Despite staffing difficulties the Maternity Unit at Hallam Hospital continues to render service for which many grateful acknowledgements have been made.

The holding of an Ante-Natal Clinic at the Mesty Croft Infant Welfare Centre has proved a great convenience to the expectant mothers and Midwives of the area.

Midwives.

Dr. W. D. Carruthers, Medical Officer of Health of the Staffordshire County Council, who are the Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act, informs me :

Number of County Midwives practising in Wednesbury at						
31st December, 1945	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of Private Midwives practising in Wednesbury at						
31st December, 1945	...	...	...	...	...	3

Number of confinements attended by County Midwives during 1945 :

As Midwife	...	...	...	...	...	...	347
(includes two abortions or miscarriages)							
As Maternity Nurse			...	...	...	...	71
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	418

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Cases notified one ; there was no impairment of vision.

Maternal Mortality.

There was one death associated with child-birth—(death rate 1.4 per thousand live and still births).

Care of Premature Infants.

Notification of Prematurity (i.e. a birth weight of less than $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.) is now required on the Birth Notification Cards and the suggestions of Ministry of Health Circular 20/1944 have been implemented.

Illegitimate Children.

1938 : Illegitimate live births 10 ; illegitimate still births Nil.

1945 : Illegitimate live births 20 ; illegitimate still births Nil.

The supervision of these children in conjunction with Sister Ellis, C.A., of the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare Work, is of supreme importance and requires much anxious thought and constant care.

Child Life Protection.

Three children were being received for reward at the end of the year.

Each Health Visitor is responsible for the cases in her own area and for adopted children during their probationary period.

Nutrition.

The Provision of National Dried Milk and Accessory Food Factors (Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil Compound or Vitamin Capsules) for expectant and nursing mothers and for children up to five years of age has continued during the year at each Infant Welfare Centre and Ante-Natal Clinic, at the latter Iron Sulphate Tablets are also available.

Approximately 75.4 per cent of mothers attending were using these dietary supplements.

War-time Day Nurseries.

Walton Road ... *Matron* : Mrs. D. D. Cowie, S.R.N.

Rowley View ... *Matron* : Mrs. D. Mapstone, S.R.N.

Hours of opening : Mondays to Fridays ... 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturdays ... 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

These nurseries, each accommodating 10 children under two years of age and 30 of from two to five, continued their very useful work during the year.

It is to be regretted that they have never been as fully utilised as they ought to have been—certainly not by those who should have used them most—the closing of adjacent nurseries of near-by authorities occasioned the admission of some children formerly in attendance at them.

Christmas Parties organised by the Matrons were much appreciated and the happy healthy appearance of the children was evidence of the care they were receiving.

Further gifts of Toys were received from the Wednesbury W.V.S. and the South East Staffordshire Committee for the Provision of Playthings for War-time Day Nurseries.

Both Nurseries were recognised for training purposes by the National Society of Children's Nurseries and one student nurse took her examination and was awarded the Nursery Nurses' Certificate.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The Borough of Wednesbury lies within the Statutory Area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst. C.E., Engineer-in-Chief, has given me the following report :—

- (i) The water supply to this area and its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.
- (ii) The supply to the Borough of Wednesbury is derived from my Company's distribution system in this area which is supplied from thirteen Pumping Stations located to the north and north-west of the Borough. The supply from each of these stations is examined regularly both bacteriologically and chemically and where treatment is installed bacteriological samples are examined both from the raw water and the water going into supply.

The water supply is further sampled at monthly intervals at three points within the Borough and during 1945 all the samples from each of two points were free from coliform bacteria. In the case of the third sampling point, twelve samples were examined of which eleven were free from coliform bacteria in 100 ml. quantities and one contained Bact. coli. type 1 in 100 ml., (probable number 1 per 100 ml.)

- (iii) The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvent action. Samples are examined at intervals for lead.
- (iv) Protection is afforded against contamination at the Pumping Station by the use of chlorine, ammonia-chlorine or ozone. This sterilisation is largely precautionary.

Contamination of mains following bursts or laying of new pipes, and of service reservoirs following emptying is safeguarded by chlorination for which special apparatus and staff are available. These mains and reservoirs are not brought into re-use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

- (v) The number of houses with a piped water supply in the Borough of Wednesbury at December, 1945, was 8,464. The number of standpipes in the Borough at the same time was ten, with a further 78 taps in outhouses, making a total of 88 taps which serve a total of 204 houses which have no other form of pipe supply.

Independent samplings of the supply have always been given a satisfactory chemical and bacteriological report.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

At the end of the year families awaiting re-housing under Demolition and Clearance Orders not completed at the out-break of war numbered 111.

Applications for houses since 1939, numbered 1,736, comprising Childless Couples 786, Man, Wife and one child 626, Man, Wife and two children 210, Man, Wife and three children 58, Man, Wife and four children 25, Man, Wife and five children 23, Man, Wife and six children 7, Man, Brother and Mother and three children 1.

Cases of Tuberculosis requiring re-housing number 32. Infectious cases 16, Non-infectious 16.

Many houses which in pre-war years were regarded as borderline from a sanitary and unfitness point of view are, with the passage of time, becoming ripe for demolition and will require consideration as soon as rehousing conditions permit.

The Housing Committee has adopted a "points" system, here set out, which should ensure that new houses are allocated to those in most need.

That points be allocated as follows :—

- (i) Living in unfit houses, according to conditions. Very bad 20 ; bad 15 ; poor 10 ; minor defects 5 to 10 as allocated by the Chief Sanitary Inspector. Maximum 20 points.
- (ii) Overcrowded—calculate points by multiplying by four the number of persons including all children and adding one for an expectant mother and dividing by the number of bedrooms subject to a maximum of 20 points.
- (iii) Medical (Tuberculosis).
 Each infectious person 1 to 30 points.
 Each other person 1 to 5 points as allocated by the Medical Officer of Health. Maximum 30 points.
- (iv) Persons with no separate home.
 One person 10 points.
 Married couple 20 points.
 One additional point for each child or other person in family. Maximum 25 points.
- (v) War Service in Armed Forces.
 One for each year of service or part of a year. Maximum 5 points.

The adoption of this system will enable the pending applications to be arranged in order of priority, but will not prevent special consideration of any individual cases in which the circumstances are exceptional.

At the end of the year the Council owned 3,088 houses.

Mr. Arthur Booth, F.R.I.B.A., M.I.Struct.E., F.R.S.A., M.Inst. M.Cy.E., has given me the following particulars of re-housing plans and progress :—

“ During the year about 60 acres of derelict land has been reclaimed at Park Lane and Hobs Road and developed with roads and sewers for housing purposes. The building of 34 traditional houses has proceeded on the Dale Street Clearance Area and a further eight foam slag houses at Dangerfield Lane. Negotiations were also completed with the Builders Federation for building 300 traditional houses on the Park Lane Site within 12 months and through the Ministry of Works arrangements were also made for 100 foam slag houses to proceed.

The above forms part of the short term post war housing programme which contemplates the erection of 1,420 houses on six sites in the Borough.

Licenses for building 66 houses for sale were also issued during the year.”

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Dr. W. D. Carruthers, the Medical Officer of Health of the Staffordshire County Council, which is the Food and Drugs Authority, has given me the following particulars :—

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Particulars of Samples of Food taken during 1945.

<i>Article of Food.</i>		<i>Number of Samples.</i>		<i>Genuine.</i>		<i>Adulterated.</i>	
Milk	15	...	15	...	—
General Foods	15	...	15	...	—

Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>Total Samples.</i>	<i>Cleanliness.</i>		<i>T.B.</i>
		<i>Satisfac- tory.</i>	<i>Unsatisfac- tory.</i>	
T.T. (Pasteurised) ...	3 * —	3	—	—
Pasteurised ...	18 *17	13	5	—
Accredited ...	1 * —	1	—	—
Sterilised ...	16 * —	16	—	—
Non-designated ...	11 *16	9	2	—

*No biological test.

All the Pasteurised and Sterilised Milks passed the phosphatase Test.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

A table giving the incidence of infectious disease is appended.

Diphtheria.

Diphtheria notifications after revision numbered 38 compared with 105 in 1944. The disease was never epidemic in character and was generally of a mild or moderate type.

Eighteen of the cases were under fifteen years of age.

There were no deaths.

Protection Against Diphtheria.

During the year 564 children received treatment—448 being in the 0 to 5 year age group and 116 in the 5 to 15 year group.

At the 31st December, of an estimated mid-year population under five years of age of 2,970—protective treatment had been given to 1,537, of a population of 5,390 from five to fifteen years of age, 2,026 had received protective treatment, i.e., 5,919 out of 8,360 children under 15 or 70% of those at risk. These figures do not include children who received protective treatment from their own doctor, by private arrangement.

This percentage has only been achieved as the result of strenuous endeavour ; in an enlightened community every child should have received protective treatment by its first birthday, and reinforcing doses at the age of five and ten years.

289 throat swabs were examined at the County Laboratory, of which 19 showed morphological Diphtheria Bacilli.

Influenza.

There was no noteworthy incidence of influenza.

Measles.

Notification numbered 244 ; in 1944-85 ; in 1943-622.

Scarlet Fever.

49 cases : 1944-84 ; in 1943-104.

Whooping Cough.

76 cases : 1944-93 ; in 1943-57.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases.

82 patients were admitted to the hospitals of the West Midlands Joint Isolation Hospital Board.

Tuberculosis.

The Return for the last quarter of the year showed 178 cases on the Register as compared with 164 in 1944, 157 in 1943, 165 in 1942, 158 in 1941, 163 in 1940, 164 in 1939, and 173 in 1938.

New cases notified and deaths (all forms of Tuberculosis) during the last seven years :

New Cases ...	1939 ... 43	1940 ... 31	1941 ... 44
	1942 ... 46	1943 ... 37	1944 ... 43
	1945 ... 51		
Deaths ...	1939 ... 25	1940 ... 20	1941 ... 31
	1942 ... 24	1943 ... 20	1944 ... 27
	1945 ... 25		

Reports on 203 sputum tests carried out at the County Laboratory were received during the year ; 38 being positive.

Scabies.

Cases treated during the year numbered 7 adults and 13 children under five years of age.

Vaccination.

Dr. G. E. V. Morris, Public Vaccinator reports :—

Vaccination Return for the year ending December, 1945.

Number of Births	...	...	...	...	479
Successful Vaccinations	...	...	...	...	49
Statutory Declarations	...	...	...	...	340
Deaths, unvaccinated	...	...	...	...	17
Postponements	...	...	...	...	35
Removals	...	...	...	...	2
Cases to be accounted for under six months					36
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	479
					<hr/>

“ The usual deplorable state of vaccination in Wednesbury—partly due to the apathy of the public and partly to the laxness of the authority.”

GEORGE E. V. MORRIS,

Public Vaccinator.

Civil Ambulances.

During 1945 the Civil Ambulances responded to 1,209 calls.

Civil Defence—Casualty Services.

Midnight of July 1st was the date and time of the final Disbandment of the Civil Defence Force—the one remaining First Aid Post and Gas Cleansing Station ceasing to function thereafter.

The last “ Alert ” period was from 01-10 to 01-50 on March 4th, 1945 ; since the 3rd of September, 1939, 367 responses were made to Sirens sounded. From the Chief Officer of every branch down to the youngest messenger the Local Authority has received loyal and unstinted support and they have every reason to be proud of the body of men and women who were members of the Civil Defence Services.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) IN AGE GROUPS AND WARD DISTRIBUTION, 1945.

DISEASE.	Numbers originally notified	Final numbers after correction.														Cases Admitted to Hospital	
		Under 1	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Totals	King's Hill	WARDS. Market Town Hall	Wood Green	Deaths		
Scarlet Fever : Males ... Females ...	20 — — 29	— — — —	1 5 — —	6 6 — —	9 8 — —	3 7 — 1	1 1 — 2	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	20 29 — —	8 10 — —	1 2 — —	1 4 — —	10 13 — —	— — — —	7 16
Whooping Cough : Males ... Females ...	35 — — 41	7 6 — —	8 15 — —	11 11 — —	8 6 — —	— 1 — 2	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	34 41 — —	10 12 — —	4 5 — —	5 2 — —	15 22 — —	2 — — —	— —
Ac. Poliomyelitis ... Ac. Polioencephalitis ...	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— —
Measles : Males ... Females ...	125 — — 119	6 11 — —	52 28 — —	33 45 — —	31 31 — —	1 2 — 8	1 1 — 1	— 1 — 1	— — — —	— — — —	124 119 — —	37 27 — —	10 15 — —	11 13 — —	66 64 — —	— — — —	1 1
Diphtheria : Males ... Females ...	27 — — 28	— — — —	3 — — —	1 — — —	8 — — —	4 3 — 4	2 13 — 3	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	19 19 — —	2 4 — —	3 5 — —	7 1 — —	7 9 — —	— — — —	26 25
Ac. Pneumonia : Males ... Females ...	46 — — 21	3 1 — —	3 1 — —	2 2 — —	6 4 — —	4 2 — 4	3 2 — 4	11 3 — —	2 2 — —	43 21 — —	— — — —	11 4 — —	8 3 — —	7 2 — —	17 12 — —	12 7 — —	3 —
Dysentery ... Males ... Females ...	1 — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	1 — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	1 — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	1 —
Smallpox ... Ac. Encephalitis lethargica Enteric or Typhoid Fever Paratyphoid Fevers Erysipelas :	— — — — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — — — —
Males ... Females ...	2 — — 1	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	2 — — 1	— — — —	— — — —	2 1 — —	— — — —	— 1 — —	— — — —	2 — — —	— — — —	— —
Cerebro-Spinal Fever Puerperal Pyrexia : Females ... Ophthalmia Neonatorum :	— — — 1 — — — —	— — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — —
Males ... Females ... Malaria ...	— — — — — —	— — — — — —	— — — — — —	— — — — — —	— — — — — —	— — — — — —	— — — — — —	— — — — — —	— — — — — —	— — — — — —	— — — — — —	— — — — — —	— — — — — —	— — — — — —	— — — — — —	— — — — — —	— — — — — —
TOTAL	256 241	35	116	117	112	27	27	21	16	4	475	126	57	53	239	21	81

TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1945.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	1	3	—	1	1	—	—	—
15—25	4	8	—	1	1	4	—	—
25—35	6	7	—	—	3	—	—	—
35—45	8	1	1	—	2	2	—	—
45—55	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
55—65	5	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 and over...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
<i>Total</i>	29	19	1	2	12	9	—	—

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the year 1st January to 31st December, 1945, I submit the report of the work carried out by my Department.

There has been no change in staff during the year, which remains at one Additional Sanitary Inspector to myself, and two Clerks.

Further to the Tables of Inspection herewith I have to record the following items.

Public Health Act, 1936.

The control of Verminous Premises has been well maintained. It is hoped that with the advent of the new insecticides, "D.D.T." and "Gammexane," much of the infestation will disappear.

Food and Drugs Act and Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.

The work at the Slaughterhouse in the Borough has stepped up to double the number of carcasses of last year. In addition a good measure of Inspection of other Food Premises has been maintained.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

There has been a great reduction in Complaints of Infestation, and the work that has been done is quite satisfactory.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

Owing to the preparation of the "Timber Yard" Site for new houses the Incinerator has been removed. The disposal of refuse by controlled tipping proceeds satisfactorily.

Public Health Acts—Inspections, etc.

After complaints	...	...	...	...	...	894
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	42
Number of houses disinfested—Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	59
Number of houses disinfested—Other houses	...	...	...	...	...	40
Infectious disease—Visits and enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	96
Smoke abatement—Observations	...	...	...	...	...	3
Smoke abatement—Visits to plant	...	...	...	...	...	9
Piggeries inspected	...	...	...	...	...	86
House drainage	...	...	...	...	...	266

Housing Act.

Miscellaneous visits and enquiries	...	...	...	...	405
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	3

Food and Drugs Act and Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.

Number of visits to slaughter houses	...	...	...	283
Number of carcasses inspected	...	...	...	10,776

Total weight of meat condemned and surrendered :—

7 tons 10 cwts. 2 qrs. 24½ lbs.

Inspections of food other than meat	72
-------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

Total weight of other food condemned and surrendered :—

1 ton 2 cwts. 3 qrs. 23 lbs.

Fish-frying premises inspected	...	...	...	...	34
Butchers' shops inspected	...	...	...	...	12
Ice-cream shops inspected	...	...	...	...	17
Other food shops inspected	...	...	...	...	31
Food-preparing premises inspected	...	...	...	...	53
Dairies and Cowsheds inspected	...	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses inspected	...	...	...	...	8
Sampling—Milk	...	...	...	...	13
Sampling—Water	...	...	...	...	5
Markets inspected	...	...	...	...	16

Factories Act.

Factories—with power	45
Factories—without power	...	...	...	...	15

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	78
Visits made	...	...	...	...	...	484
Estimated number of rats killed	...	...	...	...	...	1,259

(Estimate per Ministry of Food formula).

Miscellaneous Inspections, etc.

Collection and disposal of refuse	...	...	...	...	172
Accommodation for storage of refuse	...	...	...	...	365
Salvage	...	...	...	...	165
Stables	...	...	...	...	7
Places of entertainment	...	...	...	...	3
General	...	...	...	...	205

Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

(1st April, 1945 to 31st March, 1946).

Total weight of refuse collected (estimated)	...	7,592 tons
Total weight of materials salvaged	...	582½ tons

With my full appreciation to the Council for their co-operation and of the loyal service of the Staff.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FREDK. J. TURNER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector,
M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Department,
Wednesbury.

